

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute amended claim 1 and add new claim 11 as follows:

1. (Second Amended) A method of manufacturing glass parts for connecting optical fibers, comprising:

placing a glass tube having an internal hole into a frame;
and

5 applying heat through the frame to predetermined parts of the glass tube from outside the frame while applying pressure into said internal hole of the glass tube so as to expand said predetermined parts, thus forming tapered portions;

10 wherein the frame restricts an increase in an outside diameter of the glass tube.

11. (New) A method of manufacturing glass parts for connecting optical fibers, the method comprising:

placing and joining a plurality of glass elements together in such a manner that a through hole is formed between the glass
5 elements;

forming a periphery of the joined glass elements into a predetermined shape;

drawing the formed glass elements so as to obtain a glass tube;

10 placing said glass tube into a frame;

heating predetermined parts of the glass tube from outside the frame while applying pressure into said through hole so as to expand said predetermined parts, thus forming tapered portions;

15 wherein the frame restricts an increase in an outside diameter of the glass tube.